THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There has been a demand for a new station between Jogeshwari and Goregaon stations. This has been examined, but not found justified.

Survey of Railway Line between Panvel Khopoli, Bombay

3616. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many years ago, a survey was carried out to have a Railway Link between Panvel-Khopoli and Karjat around Bombay;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government consider this as an important link; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A Survey was carried out for a rail link between Kurla and Karjat via Panvel in 1951 but the construction was not approved.

(c) and (d) A new survey for a rail link between Panvel and Karjat (32 km) has since been approved at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakhs.

Legislation for Providing Job Reservation for Handicapped and Mentally Retarded Persons

3617. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has recently made an announcement for bringing in requisite legislation to ensure reservation of jobs for the handicapped and for welfare of the physically handicapped and mentally retarded;

(b) if so, what would be the broad parameters of the proposed legislation; and

(c) by when it is expected to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, please.

(b) and (c) A Bill for enactment of legislation on Rights and Welfare of the Handicapped is likely to be introduced very soon in Parliament. The broad parameters are under consideration.

Proposal for converting Muzaffarpur-Narkatia and Pahleza Pipradih Jadunathpur/Bhavnathpur MG into BG

3618. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to convert the Muzaffarpur-Narkatia and Pahleza Pipradih Jadunathpur Bhavnathpur meter gauges into broad gauges in Bihar;

(b) if so, by when Government propose to convert these lines into broad gauge; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A survey has recently been conducted for conversion of Muzaffarpur-Narkatiaganj M.G. section to B.G. Bihar Government has entrusted survey for gauge conversion of Pahleza-Pipradih N.G. to B.G. and its extension to Jadunathpur and Bhavnathpur to RITES. Due to constraint of resources, it is difficult to state, at this stage, as to when the above projects would be approved.

Setting up of a Wagon Factory in Bihar

3619. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish a wagon factory in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the site was changed from Bihar to Punjab thereby doing injustice to the Industrially backward State of Bihar; and

(c) whether Government propose to do away with this injustice and establish a wagon factory in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.